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We use **indefinite pronouns** to talk about people, things and ideas without specifying them.

The most common indefinite pronouns are: 'some', 'any', 'one' and their derivatives, as well as 'all', 'every', 'each', 'few', 'little', 'many'/'much', 'both', 'either'.

Indefinite pronouns may have different forms depending on their use in statements, negative sentences and questions.

- **Someone** gave me a call this evening.
- Is there **anybody** at home?
- There's **nothing** left on the table.

What indefinite pronouns denote

Indefinite pronouns may denote different things or ideas.

Animate objects

Indefinite pronouns denoting animate objects are formed using '**-body**'/'**one**':

- to talk about a **person**, use 'anybody', 'somebody', 'anyone' and 'someone':

- Peter doesn't know **anybody** in his new school.
- I saw **somebody** walking down the street.
- You can ask **someone** to help you with your bags.

- to talk about **all people** in a group, use 'everyone' and 'everybody':

- I would like **everyone** to attend our next meeting.
- The room is empty. Where is **everybody**?

- to talk about **no person**, use 'nobody' and 'no one':

- **Nobody** knows the troubles I've seen.
- **No one** in the class could answer the teacher's question.

Things or ideas

Indefinite pronouns denoting things or ideas are formed using '**-thing**'

- to talk about availability of things or ideas, use 'something' and 'anything':

- There is **something** special about Mary.
- Is there **anything** I can do for you?

- to talk about unavailability of things or ideas, use 'nothing':

- James and Timothy have absolutely **nothing** in common.
- We did a great job and there is **nothing** left to do.

- to talk about availability of all things or ideas, use 'everything':

- I'm leaving for Paris and I want to see **everything** there.
- Becky is back to school, **everything** is fine with her.

Places

Indefinite pronouns denoting places are formed using '**-where**': 'everywhere', 'anywhere', 'nowhere' and 'somewhere':

- Let's go **somewhere** special.
- This road leads to **nowhere**.
- You can go **anywhere** you like.
- Emily couldn't find her phone, though she looked **everywhere**.

We can also use pronouns beginning with '**any-**' in statements to mean all people or things, when it *doesn't matter who, what or where*:

- **Anyone** can play this game.
- You are free to take **anything** you like from my clothes.

Note: Don't put two negative words in one sentence.

- I didn't see anything.

Correct: I saw nothing.

NOT: I didn't see nothing.

How to use indefinite pronouns

1. We normally use 'somebody', 'someone', 'something' and 'somewhere' in statements and questions:

- *Yesterday I've met **someone** special.*
- *We heard a loud noise from **somewhere** in the street.*
- *Could **somebody** let me know what to do?*
- *Can I have **something** to drink?*

2. We use 'anybody', 'anyone', 'anything' and 'anywhere' in negative sentences and questions:

- *There isn't **anything** you can do in this situation.*
- *When Peter had arrived, he couldn't find **anyone** at home.*
- *Is there **anybody** going to listen to my story?*
- *Would you like to travel **anywhere** next month?*

3. We use 'nobody', 'no one', 'nothing' and 'nowhere' in statements and questions:

- ***Nobody** can understand me better than you.*
- *This poor guy has **nowhere** to live.*
- *Why is there **no one** in the office?*
- *You always keep silent, do you have **nothing** to say?*

4. We usually use 'everybody', 'everyone', 'everything' and 'everywhere' in statements:

- ***Everybody** knows this prominent artist.*
- *I need **everyone** to leave this room immediately!*
- *This is **everything** you need to know about her.*
- *Spring is **everywhere**!*

Note: 'Everyone', 'everybody' and 'everything' are always followed by a singular verb.

- **Everybody was** at the meeting.

NOT: ~~Everybody were~~ at the meeting.

Indefinite pronouns can take singular or plural verbs. Please note:

Always Singular			Always Plural	Singular OR Plural
each	everyone	no one	both	none
every	everybody	nobody	many	some
one	everything	nothing	others	more
either	anyone	someone	several	most
neither	anybody	somebody	few	any
another	anything	something	fewer	all

<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/20/74/43/2074439a76b7f0b4d53fb63ec391cfc3.jpg>

Here's an interesting video from EngVid explaining a tricky thing - agreement of indefinite pronouns:

See also:

[Pronouns and Determiners: Each, Every, Either, Neither, Both, Half, All](#)

[Reflexive Pronouns](#)

[Interrogative Pronouns](#)